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## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE QUESTIONS OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM.

- I. THE BIBLE : OLD TESTAMENT.    II. THE BIBLE : NEW TESTAMENT.  
III. BIBLICAL REVELATION.
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PREFATORY NOTE : In September, 1900, the BIBLICAL WORLD published a somewhat lengthy symposium upon the advisability of using catechetical instruction in the Sunday school. Rather unexpectedly, the consensus of opinion favored the employment of such instruction, and one of the writers suggested that the BIBLICAL WORLD undertake the arrangement of a suitable catechism. After careful consideration, the editors have determined to attempt the task. To this end twelve general topics have been chosen and classified into the following groups : I, The Bible : (1) Old Testament ; (2) New Testament ; (3) Biblical Revelation. II, (4) God ; (5) Jesus Christ. III, (6) Sin ; (7) Forgiveness. IV, (8) The Kingdom of God ; (9) The Future Life. V, (10) The Christian Life : Relation with God ; (11) The Christian Life : Relation with Men ; (12) The Christian Life : Education.

According to the plan adopted, ten or more representative religious leaders have been asked to prepare upon each of these twelve topics those ten questions which, if properly answered, would, in their estimation, be most helpful in giving Christian instruction to persons of sixteen to twenty-one. These questions will be published monthly in the BIBLICAL WORLD.

It should be distinctly understood that such a distribution of questions is not intended to fix the order or proportions of the proposed catechism itself, but has been adopted as the most practical method of obtaining a general expression of opinion. It is intended that, after this preliminary work has been done, a catechism shall be formulated and submitted to criticism. This catechism may contain more or less than twelve topics and 120 questions.

After the questions have thus been prepared, attention will be given to the proper answers.

### I. THE BIBLE : THE OLD TESTAMENT.

1. Into what four parts may the Old Testament be subdivided ?
2. What truths dominate the accounts of the creation and the fall ?

3. What is the chief lesson taught by the sacrificial system ?
4. In what ways are the narrative portions of the Old Testament useful ?
5. How was the fall of the southern kingdom a necessary step in the production of the Old Testament Scriptures ?
6. How was it a necessary preparation for a universal religion and for Christianity ?
7. In what does the especial value of the Psalms consist ?
8. What is the true conception of prophecy ?
9. How did the prophets prepare the way for Christ ?
10. What prophetic utterances are favorable to foreign missions ?

SAMUEL IVES CURTISS.

1. What are the chief divisions of the Old Testament (history, law, prophets, "wisdom" literature) ?
2. What advantage is there in having God's revelation in the various forms of history, laws, prophecy, and devotional writings ?
3. In what respects does the divine revelation become fuller and clearer throughout the Old Testament ?
4. What does the Old Testament teach respecting God's revelation in nature ?
5. What proof of divine revelation appears in prophecy ?
6. What testimony does the New Testament give to the revelation in the Old ?

H. M. SCOTT.

1. In the formative period of Israel's history, from the call of Abram to the conquest of Canaan, what were the distinctive providential developments, and who were the leaders ?
2. What were the origins of Israel's social and religious institutions ?
3. What was meant by the covenant with Abraham and the redemption out of Egypt ?
4. What was the primitive and what the ultimate belief in Jehovah as the God of Israel ?
5. What effect had the conquest, life under agricultural conditions, and contact with Baal worship on Israel's religious development ?
6. Who were the leaders, and what the providential developments, of the period from the conquest to the exile ?
7. What effect had the war of liberation from Philistia, the establishment of the Davidic dynasty and national seat of worship in Jerusalem, the secession of the ten tribes, and the reformation of Josiah ?
8. What was the work of the pre-literary and literary prophets down to the exile ?
9. What effect had the exile and restoration on Israel's religious development ?
10. Who were the religious and national leaders of the exilic and post-exilic period, and what were their aims and ideals ?

BENJAMIN W. BACON.

1. What are the books of the Old Testament ?
2. How were they divided by the Jews ?
3. How was the law compiled ?
4. How were the books of the prophets written ?
5. Why have we a uniform text ?
6. Are there any errors in our text ?
7. What are the three best books of the Old Testament ?
8. What are the three most doubtful books ?
9. What are the books of the Apocrypha ?
10. Why were these books rejected ?

D. A. HAYES.

1. What is a sacred book ; and what nations have formed collections of sacred books ?
2. What are the seven divisions of the Old Testament ?
3. Into what three groups may the prophetic writings be divided ; and what are their characteristics ?
4. What are the divisions of the historical writings ; and what is their historical value ?
5. The character of the legal writings ?
6. The liturgical literature ; occasion and dates of the Psalms ?
7. The wisdom books ; their point of view ?
8. Apocalyptic literature ; its nature and origin ; date of Daniel ?
9. The romance (Ruth, Jonah, Esther) ?
10. When were the books collected into a canon ?

C. H. TOY.

1. What are the books of the Old Testament ; in what language were they written ; and into what classes may they be divided ?
2. What is to be understood by "the law," and what by "the prophets," of the Old Testament ?
3. What are the chief religious truths which have been imparted to humanity through the people of Israel, as contained in the sacred writings of the Old Testament ?
4. How shall we express the essential truth of the Old Testament "law ;" and by what considerations should a Christian determine his obedience to the commandments of the Hebrew Scriptures ?
5. What do the prophets of the Old Testament teach respecting the coming of Messiah and the nature of his kingdom ?
6. What did our Lord teach respecting his own relations to the Scriptures of the Old Testament ?
7. In what sense are the Hebrew Scriptures superseded, and in what fulfilled, by Christianity ?
8. How did the books of the Old Testament come to be regarded as "Sacred Scripture ;" and why can they now properly be so esteemed by the Christian ?

9. Why do we accept the writings of the Old Testament as belonging to the "Word of God"?
10. How may we best use the Old Testament for the confirmation of Christian faith and for edification in the Christian life?

GEORGE T. LADD.

1. What is the Old Testament?
2. What are the books of the Old Testament in their order in the English Bible?
3. When and by whom were these books written?
4. How may these books be divided?
5. What is the contents of the Hexateuch?
6. What was the origin of the laws of Israel, and how may they be generally classified?
7. What is the contents of the historical books?
8. With what purpose and under what limitations were the narratives in both the Hexateuch and the historical books written?
9. What is the contents of the poetical books?
10. What is the contents of the prophetical books?

E. L. CURTIS.

1. Into what three parts was the Old Testament divided in the Jewish church, and why?
2. Who was the founder of the law or Torah, and when and through whose agency did this Torah receive its final form?
3. What is the substance of the Torah?
4. What are the former prophets, and what is the distinguishing feature which marks them as prophetical books rather than history in the modern sense of that word?
5. Who are the latter prophets, when did they live, and what was their mission?
6. What books constitute the wisdom literature, and what are their characteristics?
7. To what class of literature do Ruth, Esther, (and Jonah) belong, and what is their purpose?
8. When were the Psalms composed, and how were they used?
9. What was the object of the book of Daniel, and what important doctrine is first taught there?
10. What other books among the writings, and what is their character?

J. P. PETERS.

## II. THE BIBLE: THE NEW TESTAMENT.

1. What is the relation of the New Testament to the Old?
2. Into what main parts may it be subdivided?
3. What is the chief object of the synoptic gospels?

4. What is the chief object of the fourth gospel?
5. What is the special purpose of the Acts of the Apostles?
6. Which is the most important of Paul's epistles?
7. What great doctrine does he teach in that epistle?
8. What does the apostle James emphasize in his epistle?
9. What virtue does Paul commend as most important in the first epistle to the Corinthians?
10. What are set forth in James and the first epistle of John as evidences of true religion?

SAMUEL IVES CURTISS.

1. What do the prophets of the advent (Zechariah, John the Baptist, etc.) testify respecting the divine revelation in Jesus Christ?
2. What did Jesus teach about the Old Testament revelation?
3. Why is the revelation in Christ of supreme importance?
4. How did Jesus connect the Holy Spirit with divine revelation?
5. What authority had the apostles to continue the revelation of Jesus Christ?
6. On what confession of the apostles was the church built?
7. In what state of mind and heart must we study the Scriptures?
8. Why is the last book of the Bible called *the* revelation?

H. M. SCOTT.

1. What was the significance of the movement called the baptism of John?
2. What method was employed by Jesus to inaugurate the kingdom?
3. What opposition did he meet from synagogue and temple authorities, and how did they compass his death?
4. With what principle of faith did Jesus meet and interpret this seeming defeat?
5. How were his followers lifted from their despair and led to look upon the course of events as providential?
6. What was the earlier and later doctrine of the Spirit as "the Gift of God"?
7. Through what events and arguments was the church led to accept the extension of the messianic inheritance to the gentiles?
8. What were Paul's ideas as to the relation of the death of Christ to the system of legal religion?
9. In what relation stands the ultimate New Testament representation of Christ as the Word of God to that of the messianic Redeemer expected by his first followers?
10. What is the New Testament conception of the "restoration of all things" in the reign of Christ in the City of God?

B. W. BACON.

1. What are the books of the New Testament ?
2. Why are there various readings ?
3. Why are our twenty-seven books canonical ?
4. What are the characteristics of Matthew ?
5. What are the characteristics of Mark ?
6. What are the characteristics of Luke ?
7. What are the characteristics of John ?
8. What was the history of the early church ? (Acts.)
9. What was the belief of the early church ? (Epistles.)
10. What was the hope of the early church ? (Apocalypse.)

D. A. HAYES.

1. During what period were the New Testament books composed ?
2. Life of Paul ?
3. Date and purpose of the four great epistles ?
4. Object of the other epistles ascribed to Paul ?
5. Form of the synoptic gospels ?
6. Form of the fourth gospel ?
7. Contents of Acts ?
8. The catholic and the pastoral epistles ?
9. The Apocalypse — date and character ?
10. When were the New Testament books collected into a canon ?

C. H. TOY.

1. What are the books of the New Testament ; in what language were they written ; and into what classes may they be divided ?
2. How did the four gospels originate ; and how shall we understand the different lives of the one Christ which they represent ?
3. How did the epistles originate ; and how can their instructions and exhortations for the early Christians be binding upon us ?
4. What is the meaning of the book of Acts in the Scriptures of the New Testament ?
5. How do the writers of the New Testament consider their teachings to be related to the Scriptures of the Old Testament ?
6. In what books of the New Testament do we find taught the central truths of our holy religion ; and with what spirit should a Christian study these books ?
7. In what consists the superiority of the Scriptures of the New Testament to those of the Old Testament ?
8. How shall we reconcile the different views of our Lord, and of his work, which appear in the different writings of the New Testament ?
9. How did the writings of the New Testament come to be regarded as the Sacred Scriptures for all Christian believers ?
10. What distinctions among the writings of the New Testament were made by the early Christian church ?

GEORGE T. LADD.

1. What principle of selection controlled in making the collection of the books known as the New Testament? and when was the authority of that collection, as we have it, definitely recognized?
2. Is the authority of a New Testament book dependent upon apostolic authorship?
3. What is the task, and what has been the result, of textual criticism of the New Testament?
4. What is the task of the higher criticism of the New Testament?
5. Name the writings attributed to Paul, with their probable dates.
6. Name the other apostolic writings of the New Testament, with their probable authorship and dates.
7. What is the synoptic question? Give the probable dates of the synoptic gospels.
8. What two books are ascribed by tradition to Luke, and what are their probable dates?
9. What is the Johannean question? Give the probable dates for the gospel and epistles of John.
10. What is an apocalypse, and what principle should control in its interpretation?

RUSH RHEES.

1. What is the New Testament?
2. What are the books of the New Testament?
3. When and by whom were these books written?
4. How may the books of the New Testament be divided?
5. What is the contents of the synoptic gospels?
6. What is the contents of the gospel of John?
7. What is the contents of the book of Acts?
8. What is the contents of the Pauline and catholic epistles?
9. What is the contents of the epistle to the Hebrews?
10. What is the contents of the book of Revelation?

E. L. CURTIS.

1. What are the names of the books of the New Testament, and into what four divisions do they fall?
2. What are the synoptical gospels, and what are their characteristics?
3. What are the Logia or sayings, and what is their relation to our present synoptical gospels?
4. What is the purpose of the gospel of St. John, and wherein does it differ from the synoptical gospels?
5. What are the contents and what the object of the book of Acts?
6. Name the epistles of St. Paul in the order of their dates.
7. What was their occasion and what their purpose?
8. What are the catholic epistles, and what are their characteristics?
9. What other epistle or epistles, by whom written, and for what purpose?
10. What is the object of the book of Revelation?

J. P. PETERS.



## III. BIBLICAL REVELATION.

1. In what ways has God made revelations to man ?
2. Why is a record of revelation necessary ?
3. How and through whom were the revelations given ?
4. How far do the peculiarities of the people through whom and to whom they were given affect the form of the revelations ?
5. Why must they be progressive ?
6. Are the underlying ideas of each revelation permanent ?
7. What is the ultimate test of the universal need of a given revelation ?
8. Through whom was the most perfect revelation made to man ?
9. What is the greatest and most comprehensive truth revealed in the New Testament ?
10. Why do we first have in the New Testament a revelation of the future life ?

SAMUEL IVES CURTISS.

1. What is the first duty of man ?
2. What rule has God given us to guide our lives in the way of his pardon and peace ?
3. How do we know that the Scriptures contain a revelation from God ?
4. What do the Scriptures principally teach ?
5. What is revealed to us by the account of the disobedience of Adam and Eve ?
6. How did God reveal himself in the covenant made with Abraham and his household ?
7. What parts of the Old Testament revelation were abolished by Christ ?
8. What is revealed to us in the sacrifices ordered to be offered in the Old Testament ?
9. What revelation of the Messiah was made in the Old Testament ?
10. What special revelation of God did Jesus give ?
11. What was the gospel which Paul declared was revealed unto him by Christ ?
12. What is the place of God's law in man's religious life ?
13. What is the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples ?
14. How did Jesus sum up all the law and the prophets ?
15. How are our religious faith and knowledge connected with God's revelation in the Scriptures ?
16. In what sense does God's spirit still make revelations to men ?

H. M. SCOTT.

1. If God grants the manifestation of himself to men (1) in providential events (revelation) and (2) in the interpretation of these events by men of God (inspiration), what title have the Scripture writings to the unique reverence of Christians ?
2. Does the authority of Scripture extend to all its statements and implications, or only to the didactic intention of the writer ?

3. What is known as to the date and origin of the historical books of the Old Testament? Of the prophetic and other books?
4. What is known of the process of canonization from the promulgation of the book of the covenant (2 Kings 23:3) to the closing of the collection of Hebrew sacred literature?
5. To what do the teachings of Jesus owe their authority in the church?
6. What relation have the letters of Paul and apostolic men, the gospels, and other New Testament writings to the teaching of Jesus?
7. What is known as to the date and origins of the historical books of the New Testament? Of its other books?
8. What is the general outcome of study into the history of the transmission of the biblical writings as to the accuracy of their text?
9. What considerations have ultimately controlled in the inclusion of the canonical books and the exclusion of the apocryphal?
10. What constitutes the Bible an organic unit and guarantees the adequacy of the present Protestant canon?

BENJAMIN W. BACON.

1. What are the revelations of Genesis?
2. What are the revelations of Amos?
3. What are the revelations of Isaiah?
4. What are the revelations of the synoptics?
5. What are the revelations of Paul?
6. What are the revelations of the epistle to the Hebrews?
7. What are the revelations of John?
8. Is the biblical revelation progressive?
9. Is the biblical revelation consistent with error?
10. Is the biblical revelation final and complete?

D. A. HAYES.

1. The central religious principle of the pre-exilic prophets.
2. Their ethical teaching as compared with the popular practice.
3. Comparison with religion and ethics of Egypt and Greece.
4. The culture and ethics of the later lawbooks and prophets.
5. The wisdom books: ethics of Proverbs—pessimism of Ecclesiastes.
6. The spiritual element in the Psalms.
7. The religious ideas of the Sermon on the Mount.
8. Paul's point of view.
9. Religious conceptions in Colossians, Ephesians, Hebrews, and the fourth gospel.
10. The ethics of the New Testament.

C. H. TOY.

1. Why does the Christian church claim the truths of the Bible to be given by divine revelation?
2. How shall we describe the special, most essential characteristics of the biblical revelation?

3. What are we to understand by the inspiration of the Bible?
4. How do all seeming discrepancies and defects in the biblical writings affect the Christian doctrine of biblical revelation and inspiration?
5. In what relation does all of biblical revelation stand to the person and teachings of Christ?
6. How should the Christian use the Bible as his "rule of faith and practice"?
7. In what relation do the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments stand to the Christian church, and to its work of evangelizing the world?
8. Whence comes that authority by reason of which the biblical writings are called "*Holy* Scriptures" and "the Word of God"?
9. How should Christians regard the use of the Bible as related to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and as a means of grace?
10. What helps may a Christian most profitably employ to the better understanding of the true "Word of God"?

GEORGE T. LADD.

1. What is a revelation?
2. In what sense is the Bible a revelation?
3. What evidences establish the claim that the Bible is a revelation?
4. What is inspiration?
5. In what sense is the Bible an inspired revelation?
6. What evidences establish the claim that the Bible is an inspired revelation?
7. What is the function of authority in religion?
8. In what sense is the Bible authoritative?
9. To what extent is the authority of biblical revelation dependent on our knowledge of the authorship and date of its several parts?
10. To what extent is the authority of biblical revelation dependent on the scientific and historical accuracy of the Bible?

RUSH RHEES.

1. Why are both the Old and New Testaments to be received as sacred or of divine authority?
2. What are the principal subjects of divine revelation?
3. How is God revealed in the Old Testament respecting his being and character?
4. What is the substance of the divine requirements of man revealed in the Old Testament?
5. Wherein are these requirements principally expressed?
6. What is the redemptive purpose revealed in the Old Testament?
7. Wherein does the New Testament revelation differ from that of the Old Testament?
8. What is the new knowledge revealed in the New Testament respecting the being and character of God?

9. What is the new knowledge revealed in the New Testament respecting the divine requirements of man ?
10. What is the new knowledge revealed in the New Testament respecting the redemptive purpose ?

E. L. CURTIS.

1. Who was the founder of the religion of Israel, and what was the nature of his revelation ?
2. What was the spiritual effect of David and his kingdom in the development of the religious life of Israel ?
3. Who were the prophets, and what did they teach ?
4. When and how did the Jews become true monotheists ?
5. When and how did they reach the doctrine of resurrection and future life ?
6. What was the Jewish doctrine of the Messiah ?
7. How and why is Jesus called Christ ?
8. What was the essence of his revelation of God ?
9. How was his religion founded ?
10. How and by whom was it made a universal religion ?

J. P. PETERS.



THE TEMPTATION.—ARY SCHEFFER